

1 H.606

2 An act relating to professional licensure and immigration status

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

5 (a) The purpose of this act is to amend the laws of Vermont to allow any
6 individual who meets the standards required by the State to obtain a
7 professional or occupational license or certification, regardless of that
8 individual's immigration status.

9 (b) The General Assembly acts pursuant to the authority provided in
10 section 411 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
11 Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–193, Title IV, § 411, codified at
12 8 U.S.C. § 1621(d), as such section existed on January 1, 2024.

13 (c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to grant eligibility for any public
14 benefits, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1621(c), other than obtaining a professional
15 license.

16 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 139 is added to read:

17 § 139. IMMIGRATION STATUS

18 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an applicant shall
19 not be denied any professional license or certification enumerated in this title
20 or Titles 16, 20, or 26 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated on the basis of the
21 applicant's citizenship status or immigration status or lack thereof.

1 (b) If an applicant is required by State law to provide a Social Security
2 number for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining a professional license or
3 certification under this title or Titles 16, 20, or 26 of the Vermont Statutes
4 Annotated, the applicant may provide a federal employer identification
5 number, an individual taxpayer identification number, or a Social Security
6 number; provided, however, that an applicant shall provide a Social Security
7 number if a federal law or an interstate compact of which the State is a member
8 requires that an applicant provide a Social Security number to obtain or
9 maintain a professional license.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on September 1, 2024.